

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 222689

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222689

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. ON SEPTEMBER 8 WE GAVE INS THE SERGEY KOVALCHUK EVIDENCE. INS WILL PROBABLY MAKE A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT SO YOU MAY GET INQUIRIES. THE DEPARTMENT IS USING THE EXISTING PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH YOU HAVE. AFTER INS HAS TRANSLATED AND REVIEWED THE MATERIAL WE WILL GET TOGETHER AGAIN AND DECIDE WHETHER TO ASK THE SOVIETS FOR ANYTHING MORE IN THE KOVALCHUK CASE, AND IF SO, HOW TO GO ABOUT IT.

2. REF MOSCOW 14090. FOR THE AMBASSADOR. YOUR MESSAGE TO MRS. HARRISON BRAND WAS RELAYED.

3. THERE IS A LETTER ON THE WAY FROM THE SEVENTH FLOOR TO THE AMBASSADOR WRAPPING UP THE BAKKE AFFAIR. AMONG OTHER THINGS THE LETTER THANKS THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN FOR THEIR REPORTING CABLES ON BAKKE'S VISIT. IN THIS CONNECTION THE FOLLOWING QUOTATION FROM THE LETTER MAY BE INTERESTING: "I PARTICULARLY WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRE-
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PAGE 02 STATE 222689

CIATION OF KEN YALOWITZ WHO ESCORTED THE BAKKE GROUP

DURING ITS STAY IN MOSCOW. THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN, KEN GOT CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE IMBROGLIO OVER THE 'MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT.' WE ARE CONVINCED THAT HE HANDLED BAKKE'S VISIT CORRECTLY."

4. WE HAVE SEEN THE CABLE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO BOB AND CONCUR WHOLEHEARTEDLY. MATTER IS AWAITING HIGH-LEVEL DECISION. WE HOPE TO HAVE AN ANSWER TOMORROW WHICH WOULD PERMIT AN INSTRUCTION IN TIME FOR SEPT. 10 CALL. WE DRAFTED ANOTHER INSTRUCTION WHICH IS NOW AWAITING CLEARANCE WHICH, AS AMBASSADOR SURMISED FROM BOB'S PHONE CALL, STEMMED FROM HIGH-LEVEL DESIRE TO AVOID HAVING ONLY ONE SUBJECT RAISED ON INSTRUCTIONS.

5. WE STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING REPORTING THAT DEMARCHE ON SUB COLLISION MADE. ARE WE MISSING SOMETHING? NYT HAS A STORY THAT OUR VERSION PRESENTED, WHICH MAY STEM FROM DOD. KISSINGER

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